

11/34/ ** FLASH **

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 FM AMEMBASSY BONN
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2672
 RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE 9547
 BT
 S E C R E T / BONN 25021 COMBINED SECTION

EXDIS

SECSTATE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBERGER
 BRUSSELS - EYES ONLY FOR EAGLEBERGER

E.O. 12065: RDS-1, 12/21/01 (EAGLEBERGER, LAWRENCE S.)
 TAGS: DVIP (EAGLEBERGER, LAWRENCE S.)
 SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT FOR VATICAN AND ITALIAN
 VISIT

1. (SECRET) ENTIRE TEXT.
2. EMBASSY ROME WILL BE REPORTING IN DETAIL ON MY MEETING WITH COLOMBO, AND I WILL SEND A DETAILED REPORT ON MY MEETING IN THE VATICAN AND WITH SPADOLINI ONCE I FINISH WITH MY BONN STOP (WHERE I WILL SEE GENSCHER). THIS CABLE REPORTS ONLY HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS FROM THE VATICAN AND ITALIAN STOPS.
3. I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE BRITISH HAVE MOVED OUR LARGER MEETING FROM LONDON TO BRUSSELS, SO I WILL GO DIRECTLY THERE FROM BONN, AND DO PARIS AND LONDON ON WEDNESDAY. I'LL COVER MYSELF IN BRUSSELS BY TALKING TO LUNS EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.

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State Dept. review completed

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4. THE VATICAN: I HAD ABOUT 45 MINUTES WITH SILVESTRINI (VATICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY). SEVERAL IMPRESSIONS:

A. THE VATICAN STILL KNOWS VIRTUALLY NOTHING ABOUT EVENTS IN POLAND, AND KNOWS AS LITTLE AS WE DO ABOUT THE ATTITUDE AND STRATEGY OF THE POLISH CHURCH. SILVESTRINI COULD ADD NO LIGHT TO WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW.

B. I GAVE A TRUNCATED VERSION OF OUR ANALYSIS OF EVENTS, LISTING THE ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE GOP, AND THE REASONS THEREFORE. I ALSO DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON OUR VIEW OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND THE NEED TO ACT AGAINST THE SOVIETS. SILVESTRINI SAID THE VATICAN VIEW PARALLELS OURS. IN OTHER WORDS, I HEARD NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN RE THE GOP, NOR DID HE CAVIL AT THE THOUGHT OF LETTING THE RUSSIANS HAVE IT ON THE NOSE (I DID NOT GIVE HIM ANY ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF POSSIBLE ANTI-SOVIET ACTIONS WE MIGHT TAKE, BUT DID LET HIM KNOW WE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LIMIT OURSELVES TO PIN-PRICKS).

4. C. THE POPE HAS WRITTEN JARUZELSKI A LETTER, WHICH DRAWS ON -- BUT IS NOT AS SPECIFIC AS -- THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE PONTIFF. THE POPE DECIDED TO BE LESS PRECISE THAN THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED BECAUSE HE DOES NOT YET KNOW THE VIEW OF THE POLISH PRIMATE. AS SOON AS THE VATICAN KNOWS IT HAS BEEN DELIVERED THE TEXT WILL BE GIVEN TO US.

D. SILVESTRINI IS BASICALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS IN POLAND.

5. ITALY: BOTH COLOMBO AND SPADOLINI WERE TOWERS OF STRENGTH IN COMPARISON WITH WHAT I SUSPECT I WILL FIND ON MY NEXT STOP (AND GOMPERT WILL ENCOUNTER IN COPENHAGEN AND THE HAGUE). HIGHLIGHTS:

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A. I FOUND NO OPPOSITION FROM EITHER TO THE THOUGHT OF MOVING AGAINST EITHER THE GOP OR THE SOVIETS. COLOMBO, IN FACT, SAID THAT ITALIAN PUBLIC OPINION FELT THAT NOT ENOUGH HAD THUS FAR BEEN SAID OR DONE BY THE GOI.

B. COLOMBO DID ARGUE THAT STIFF ECONOMIC MEASURES SHOULD BE HELD FOR NOW, SINCE ONCE WE HAVE SHOT OUR BOLT THERE WILL BE LITTLE TO CONSTRAIN THE SOVIETS FROM DIRECT INTERVENTION. BUT, HE RECOGNIZED THE VALIDITY OF MY POINT THAT WE MUST NOT GET OURSELVES INTO ANOTHER AFGHAN SITUATION, WHERE WE ONLY REACT AFTER THE FACT AND THEREBY ALSO HAVE NO REAL IMPACT ON EVENTS.

C. COLOMBO ARGUED THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO BRING POLITICAL PRESSURE TO BEAR ON MOSCOW. HE SUGGESTS WE (WITH NATO BLESSING, I GATHER) WARN THE SOVIETS THAT EVENTS IN POLAND BETWEEN NOW AND THE TIME WHEN CSCE AND THE INF TALKS RECONVENE WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE WEST'S DECISION WHETHER TO RETURN TO EITHER FORUM. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT ITALY WAS PROBABLY MORE ROBUST ON THIS (PARTICULARLY INF) THAN SOME OF OUR OTHER ALLIES WILL BE.

5D. SPADOLINI WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF A TOUGHER STANCE VIS-A-VIS THE USSR, ALTHOUGH LESS DETAILED. HE ALSO ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU AND THE PRESIDENT HIS OUTRAGE AT THE DOZIER KIDNAPPING AND HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO FIND THE CULPRITS.

6. COMMENT: THE ITALIANS ARE READY TO SUPPORT SOME MOVES RE THE USSR; EXACTLY WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT CONTINUED CONSULTATION WITH THEM (VIA A LETTER FROM YOU TO COLOMBO) WHEN OUR OWN DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WILL FIND A RECEPTIVE EAR (UP TO A POINT) IN ROME. THE "CONSULTATION" TODAY HAS ASSUAGED HURT FEELINGS; WE MUST KEEP THE PROCESS

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GOING NOW THAT WE HAVE BEGUN THE EFFORT. IT
COULD PAY BIGGER DIVIDENDS THAN I HAD EARLIER
EXPECTED. END COMMENT. BURNS

END OF MESSAGE

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